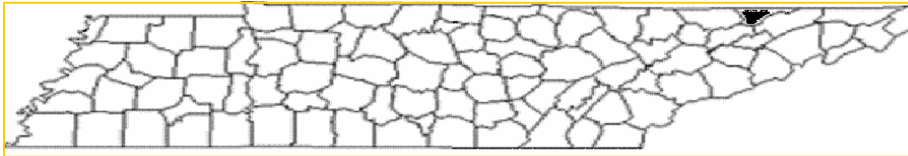


# The Status of Women in Hancock County



## STATUS OF WOMEN IN HANCOCK COUNTY: AN OVERVIEW

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INDICATOR	DATA	COUNTY RANKING
		(of 95 Counties)
COMPOSITE EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS INDEX	55.80	70
Women's Annual Earnings	\$18,199	92
Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings (Wage Gap)	78.6%	7
Women's Labor Force Participation Rate	31.8%	95
Female Unemployment Rate	7.9%	80
Women in Managerial or Professional Occupations	35.6%	5
COMPOSITE ECONOMIC AUTONOMY INDEX	67.50	86
Businesses that are Women-Owned (% of total)	>100%	95
Women with a Four-Year College Degree (%)	6.6%	88
Women With a High School Diploma (%)	58.8%	91
Female High School Dropout Rate	6.1%	39
Women with any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage (%)	93.0%	33
Women Earning Incomes Below the Poverty Level (%)	29.9%	95
Single Female-Headed Households Living In Poverty (%)	14.7%	90
Adolescent Pregnancy Rate (Ages 10-19)	24.9	9

**Report Overview:** This publication on the Status of Women in Hancock County is part of a statewide publication of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, *The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties, 2004*. The Economic Council on Women is a State agency created under TCA § 4-50-100, et seq. by the One Hundredth General Assembly in 1998 to address the economic needs of Tennessee women.

## The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

### HANCOCK

Women have taken remarkable strides towards economic equality, from education to earnings to political participation. Women are now pursuing goals such as business ownership, leadership roles in their careers, and election to state and federal political office. However, obstacles still exist in the climb toward equality. Nationwide, equal numbers of men and women are obtaining four-year college degrees; however, these gains have not translated into pay equity. The average college-educated woman working full time earns \$44,200 a year compared to \$61,800 for men in the same category. Women are still under-represented in many of the highest paying, fastest growing sectors of the economy. Helping women break into these traditionally male-dominated areas like computer science, engineering, mathematics and technology, as well as all skilled-labor positions, gives women tools for self-sufficiency and understanding of their personal capabilities, and these advances are good for the economy of our counties and of our state.

#### Employment and Earnings

The employment and earnings index includes data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation, female unemployment, and percentages of women in professional or managerial occupations.

- ◇ In Hancock County women's median annual earnings (\$18,199) are among the lowest in the state; however, women earn only about \$5,000 less annually than their male counterparts. This wage gap (78.6%) places Hancock among the top ten counties in the pay equity indicator.
- ◇ Women account for 41.9% of the county labor force, and Hancock places last among counties in women's labor force participation rate (31.8%).
- ◇ The female unemployment rate (7.9%) is significantly higher than the countywide rate (5.7%).
- ◇ Though 23.2% of employed county residents work in managerial or professional occupations, the percent of working women in such jobs is much higher (35.6%).

#### Economic Autonomy

The economic autonomy index includes information on educational attainment, business ownership and general quality of life issues.

- ◇ Hancock County ranks among the bottom ten counties in five of the eight economic autonomy indicators.
- ◇ 58.8% of women in the county have a high school diploma or equivalency while 55.9% of all residents of the county have such a degree.
- ◇ 6.6% of women in Hancock County have a four-year college degree or better, but 10.2% of all county residents have at least a bachelor's degree. Though higher percentages of women than men have high school diplomas, higher percentages of men hold four-year college degrees.
- ◇ 29.9% of women in Hancock County earn less than poverty-level incomes.
- ◇ Though 25.3% of families in the county are in poverty, 43.8% of families with a female householder and no husband present are living in poverty in the county.
- ◇ Less than one percent of private businesses in Hancock County are owned by women.
- ◇ Women represent 51.3% of the county population and 51.7% of eligible voters. None of the county commissioners are women.

# The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

## HANCOCK

		Hancock County	Rank of Hancock County	Highest Ranking County
<b>Earnings</b>	Median Annual Earnings for FT Females	\$18,199	92	Williamson: \$32,243
	Wage Gap	78.6%	7	Davidson: 82.1%

<b>Employment</b>	Female Labor Force Partici- pation Rate	31.8%	95	Rutherford: 50.9%
	Female Unemployment Rate	7.9%	80	Pickett: 1.5%
	Percent of Employed Fe- males in Management, Prof., and Related Occupations	35.6%	5	Anderson: 44.6%
	Women Owned Business % of Total	<100	95	Moore: 63.3%

<b>Education</b>	% of Females with 4 Year Degree or Better	6.6%	88	Williamson: 39.5%
	% of Females with High School Diploma (or equiva- lency)	58.8%	91	Williamson: 90.6%
	Female Dropout Rate	6.1%	39	Clay/Pickett: 0.0%

<b>Lifestyles</b>	% of Women with any kind of Health Insurance Cover- age	93.0%	33	Williamson: 100%
	% of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	29.9%	95	Williamson: 5.4%
	% of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	14.7%	90	Williamson: 2.5%
	Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	24.9	9	Williamson: 1.2%

## ABOUT THE COUNCIL AND THIS REPORT

Hancock County

*The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties* report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percentage of women in managerial occupations.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of households headed by a single female, single female headed households living in poverty, percentage of women with health insurance, the high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

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Visit the Tennessee Economic Council on Women at [www.tennesseewomen.org](http://www.tennesseewomen.org)

SOURCES	
Earnings and Employment	
Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Wage Gap (Female Earnings as a Percentage of Earnings)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Labor Force Participation Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Unemployment Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Employed Females in Management, Professional, and Related Occupations	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Economic Autonomy	
Women-owned Business, Percent of total	Economic Census, 1997
Percent of Females w/4yr Degree or Better	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Females with a High School Diploma (or equivalency)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Dropout Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Women with Any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Percent of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Voter Demographics and Elected County Officials	National Association of Counties